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PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-885-55-00

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



REMARKS BY

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA HASHIL HIGH SCHOOL – SCIENCE CLUB

**DEFULIBARI, JAMALPUR
JULY 18, 2012**

Mr. Md. Islam, Chairman, Hashil High School

Ms. Nasrin Siddiq, President of the Education and Culture Society and winner of the 2012 U.S. State Department Annual Alumni Grant competition.

Teachers and school leaders

And most especially students, students who share my passion for science and preserving the environment

Good afternoon to all ...

I am encouraged that young people are so committed to science and preserving the environment ...

... to preserving this wondrous, beautiful country and to using science and technology to solve this nation's and the world's pressing public health, economic, and social problems.

As I criss-cross this nation in my campaign to visit all 64 districts, I am struck by the diversity and beauty of Bangladesh ... this nation is dazzling ... from the tea gardens of Sylhet

...

... to the rich plains of Rajshahi ... to the wonders of Jamalpur ... to the rugged beauty of the Chittagong Hill Tracts ... to the beaches of Cox's Bazar ... the nation is spectacularly beautiful.

But the beauty of Bangladesh and the nation's environment are under threat ...

You know the challenges ... destruction of habitat, pollution of waterways and air, unfettered growth without concern for the impact on the environment, and the ravages of frequent natural disasters.

You, the youth, the leaders of today and of tomorrow, you face a heavy burden ...

... to you falls the task of safeguarding the natural treasures of Bangladesh for the next generation and the next.

In shouldering this burden, you are indeed fortunate.

Your friends, your colleagues, your fellow students are with you ...

... they, too, seek to preserve the nation while fostering the economic growth needed to improve the quality of life for all.

To this end, I wish to acknowledge the 2012 U.S. State Department Annual Alumni Grant that Ms. Siddiqa won in a worldwide competition.

This grant will enable 30 science and environmental clubs from high schools across this nation to gather and share ideas, learn from experts, and compete their project proposals.

But this is just a beginning.

Bangladesh and the world needs motivated and committed students like you to tackle and resolve the many challenges that we confront.

Young Bangladeshis like you can and are making a difference.

Several weeks ago, two young Bangladeshis won the U.S. State Department's Global Innovation through Science and Technology competition in Dubai for their project to create a building material called Jutin, composed of jute fiber and resin, which can be used to build affordable, sustainable housing.

This is the combination of science and social awareness that you students have exhibited here on your campus.

I applaud your efforts and urge you to keep dreaming big.

America is your partner... we are committed to partnering with you in using science and technology to build the new Bangladesh, the middle-income Bangladesh, the Golden Bangladesh, the next Asian Tiger ... the Bengal Tiger.

I am pleased that Hashil High School is already benefiting directly from America's teacher exchange programs and our Alumni grants program.

Yes, America is Bangladesh's partner, your partner ... here at Defulibari in Jamalpur ... indeed America is the partner of all of Bangladesh.

Again, thank you for this most instructive afternoon ... and I wish you all the best as you undertake to build the Golden Bangladesh.

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